

Dr. Burgess Weekly Video Address June 9, 2017

Remarks on Withdrawing from the Paris Accord

Hello, this is your Congressman Michael Burgess.

Last week President Trump announced his decision to exit the Paris Accord, an agreement from the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. I would like to talk with you about why this was important to keep American workers at the focus of the economy.

The Paris Accord has been a bad deal for North Texans and the American people from the start.

It frontloads costs on the American people to the detriment of our economy and job growth while extracting non-binding commitments from the world's top carbon emitters.

The president's announcement last week was a fulfillment of his promise to put American workers first.

But more importantly, the Paris Accord was a direct breach of constitutional procedure for the ratification of treaties. President Obama intentionally bypassed Congress when he signed the Paris Accord, because he knew that this agreement would fail to garner the support of the American people.

The United States was the only country of the 190 signatories to adopt the agreement through executive action and not proper ratification methods.

When President Obama signed the Paris Accord, I co-sponsored a resolution opposing the agreement. I also wrote to the Obama Administration about numerous problems with the Accord, like conducting oversight as to how the Environmental Protection Agency intended to use resources to facilitate the Accord's enforcement.

The Paris Accord was adopted as a feel-good exercise and that's not how international treaties work.

If the previous administration had been serious about addressing the problem of climate change, it would have worked with Congress to craft a solution that was supported by an overwhelming majority of the country. But President Obama rejected this option.

Congress must fulfill our constitutional duty to oversee treaties with foreign countries. I am committed to holding whatever Administration or party is in power accountable to the constitution.

As always, I appreciate your comments and your questions on this issue or any other issue. May God bless you and your family and as the song says, God bless you Texas.